

Prof. C. A. Lee

New York

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Harrison (9. 12.)

ON THE FORMATION OF

# PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER.

An Introductory Lecture,

DELIVERED NOV. 4th, 1844.

box 4.

BY JOHN P. HARRISON, M. D.,

Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Medical College of Ohio.

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1868  
Washington  
CINCINNATI:

Printed by R. P. Donogh, 110, Main Street, Six doors above Third.

1844.

At a meeting of class, of the Ohio Medical College, held in the College Edifice, November 8th, 1844; ISAAC CASSELBERRY was called to the chair, and F. W. AMES chosen Secretary.

On motion, it was Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed by the Chair, to solicit of PROF. J. P. HARRISON, a copy of his Introductory Lecture, delivered on the evening of the 4th inst., for publication.

Whereupon the Chair appointed the following gentlemen as the committee: J. B. SMITH, E. H. FERRIS, B. F. LEMERT, J. H. McDILL, L. A. JAMES, A. D. WILSON, and J. M. WILLIAMSON.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO. }  
November 8th, 1844. }

PROF. J. P. HARRISON,

*Dear Sir:*—The Medical Class, having listened with pleasure, and we hope not without benefit, to your Introductory Lecture, and believing that its publication would tend to stimulate to increased exertions, to acquire that high standard of professional character, so essential to every member of the Medical Profession, through us, their committee, respectfully solicit a copy for that purpose.

Respectfully Yours,

Committee of Class. { J. B. SMITH,  
E. H. FERRIS,, L. A. JAMES,  
B. F. LEMERT, A. D. WILSON,  
J. H. McDILL, J. M. WILLIAMSON.

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Race Street, November 8th, 1844.

*Gentlemen:*—I cheerfully comply with your polite request, hoping that good will result from the proposed publication. Yours most Respectfully,

JOHN P. HARRISON.

MESSRS. SMITH, }  
FERRIS, etc. } Committee.

## ON THE FORMATION OF PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER.

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CHARACTER constitutes the best foundation of success in life. Without it all personal and social advantages are of little weight. With it, if not brilliant fortune, always respect, consideration, and influence await a man in society.

Character fixes and perpetuates, adorns and dignifies, all the intellectual and moral powers in possession. It diffuses the chaste lustre of a moral attractiveness over the entire history of the individual, and impregnates the whole circle of human relations with a moral power, which binds in consentient harmony, heart to heart, and interest to interest.

Character is constituted of certain, permanent, personal attributes. It is not reputation or fame. It is not notoriety, or glory. It may create reputation—and bring notoriety; it may attract popular admiration and fill the trump of fame, with the loud notes of praise; but it may serenely dwell in the most sequestered shades, and be nursed amid the stillness and dreariness of solitude.

Character is inseparably attached to the man. It goes where he goes; abides by him in public and private life; cheers his hours of desertion, enlivens his domestic scenes, and dignifies his most trivial acts. It guards him in prosperity, teaches him to remember his high responsibilities, and ever enthrones conscience on the proudest acquisitions of man. Duty, self respect, and self command, are its monitors. Wherever duty calls, whatever self respect suggests, and self command imposes, character ever hears, obeys, and fulfils.

Professional character is made up of attainments, qualities, habits and aims. It is a complex formation, arising out of many various and blended excellencies. It comes not by chance, nor does it spring spontaneously, without culture, ready formed from the soil of human nature. It is of slow growth, rising amid hostile elements from a crude mass of materials, and by degrees moulding and vivifying, by the quickening energy of the soul, the cold inert materials into life, and beauty, and fruitfulness.

No genius however penetrating its capacity, and prolific its

productiveness, can create the elements of which character is composed, or discover the springs of its rise and progress, without a patient submission to the toils required for its formation. "An art it is, and must be learned." All must undergo this trial, who desire the bright consummation.

But what constitutes professional character, and what are the best methods of its formation?

In the first place, it is constituted of attainments, intellectual and moral. The mind must be cultivated, and the moral feelings disciplined in order to attain a sound and stable professional character. The intellect must be furnished with a correct and enlarged conception of the subjects pertaining to the science of medicine. No deficiency, derogating from the great beneficent uses of medical knowledge, should exist in the mind of the physician who aspires to the acquisition of an authentic professional character.

The elementary branches of medicine must be thoroughly studied, and after the mind is deeply imbued with substantial information on anatomy, physiology, chemistry, general pathology, general therapeutics and materia medica, then the practical branches are to be mastered. Hospital practice in medicine and surgery, as largely contributing to the establishment of a correct judgment of disease, and of the different means of cure, should be assiduously prosecuted. However valuable are the general attainments of the student, and however diversified and minute may be his knowledge of medicine in its principles, yet without personal observation, the recognition and treatment of the various maladies to which mankind are incident, must remain imperfect, and uncertain.

Accurate, and comprehensive views of man's structure can be best acquired by the personal labors of the dissecting room. This book of nature, which must be well studied by the student, whose warm impulses of a generous ambition prompt him to acquire a sound professional character, is bound up in a compact form. The scalpel must unloose the binding; break in upon the mysteries of this structure, and interpret the language written by the finger of Deity upon every organ and tissue of the composite machinery.

It is superfluous to dilate on the necessity of medical knowledge, as the very first and most essential requisite to the acquisition of professional character. The mind must be filled with light:—its memory stored with a diversified mass of accurate views on the science of medicine, and its judgment enlightened to comprehend and apply these views at the bed side, for the



discovery and cure of those numerous forms of disease, which the physician will be called hereafter to treat.

The moral attainments which should be acquired by the medical practitioner, are of great importance in contributing to the formation of professional character. The most prominent, useful, and energetic in their plastic and transforming presence, are a vivid sense of responsibility, a sympathy for the sick, and an exalted estimate of the dignity and excellence of the science of medicine.

The impelling power of the feeling of duty, or moral obligation, stands supreme in the empire of the soul, in subordinating the whole man, mind, spirit, and body, to the fulfilment of his august mission on earth. To pause amid the hurry and tumult of busy life, and look with reverential eye up to the throne of God, and with profound sentiments of filial fear listen to the voice of the Eternal Lawgiver as it calls us to duty, to action, to a severe tasking of our powers in a course of usefulness, will empower and enliven the soul to the noblest efforts.

Rob the mind of the purifying and ennobling feeling—that the approving smiles of the Infinite Father beam on the path of the just, and you mutilate humanity, and send it wandering amid the dark uncertainties of a troubled being.

But let the warm emotions of the breast flow out toward Supreme Goodness, and let the man realize that he is sent forth to execute a high and responsible task, and a divine fervour kindles within, which impels to an unremitting consecration of his faculties to the work given him to perform.

Besides an abiding sense of responsibility to the Supreme Author of life, in the course of whose all-disposing providence the lives and health of his rational offspring have been committed to our hands, we should cultivate a constant sentiment of accountability to society. It is an awful trust that is put into our keeping, and we should ever respond to the voice of duty as it speaks to us of the value of the interests which society has deposited in our hands.

The physician in the formation of a good professional character must not neglect the cultivation of a feeling of benevolence toward the sick. Cheering at all times is the voice of sympathy to the bruised spirit. But more especially do the afflicted and desponding sick hear with emotions of joy the soothing tones of sympathy as they breathe warm and animating from the lips of the physician. Let it not be supposed that we are advocating any puling sentimental mode of exhibiting professional sympathy. The sympathy to be shown by the medical practitioner is

to arise from a manly strain of feeling, blended with enlightened views of the proper methods of administering the surest relief to the suffering man, and a decided, prompt determination to interfere on his behalf.

To enable him, therefore, to exercise this genuine benevolence, this real philanthropy, at the bed side, let him thoroughly study the symptoms of the patient's illness, and with unrelaxing sedulity watch the case, and with decision apply the means of restoration. Let him be well versed in the whole art of knowing *what to do, when and by what means*, for the relief of the sufferer.

Rightly to form a professional character the physician should ever cherish, with fondest emotions, an exalted estimate of the dignity and excellence of his profession.

As an intellectual pursuit, demanding for its appropriate culture the most intense application, and the widest scope of action, of the most vigorous faculties, the science of medicine should ever maintain in our conceptions the highest appreciation.

As an art, ministering to the relief of human wo; incessantly engaged in mitigating and removing a thousand forms of morbid derangement, to which the species is hourly subjected, medicine should ever, in our view, be arrayed in an attractiveness superior to that which invests any other mere human pursuit.

The qualities which the accomplished physician should have in constant exercise are, a prompt attention to professional calls, with a scrupulous fulfilment of his duties;—a love of truth connected with philosophical modesty: an ever fresh and fervent desire for improvement; and a repose of spirit, a contentment of mind, in reference to his profession, “No summons should be mocked by chill delay,” but whenever prior professional engagements will permit, he should promptly attend to each call made for his services. When the physician consents to establish the relation between himself and the sick man, that moment a most solemn obligation rests upon him to exert his professional industry and skill to the utmost for the good of the patient. Patience, perseverance, and a diligent application of his powers, are now to be had in unceasing requisition till the case terminates in health, or by a fatal issue. No superficial, or perfunctory, examination, in serious attacks of disease, is to be indulged, but a painstaking, careful scrutiny must be made. Symptom should be compared with symptom; the degree of deviation from healthy function, of each important organ must be maturely weighed; the history of the case is to be minutely investigated; and the effects of remedies assiduously watched.



Calmness on the physician's part, whilst all is agitation and alarm around;—decision and promptitude in all emergencies: and an untiring zeal in prosecuting the treatment, amid apparently hopeless circumstances, should ever characterize the conduct of the medical guardian of the sick.

A kind and respectful deportment should be shown by the physician in the chamber of sickness. Harshness of manner must be avoided, and an urbane, gentlemanly conduct is to be evinced.

There is, perhaps, no quality attached to a correct professional character, more fascinating to the generality of mankind, than a bland, gentle, humane mode of examining, and prescribing for the sick. It steals like the sweetest notes of music into the bosom of the unhappy sufferer, and imparts to his perturbed mind an assured presentiment that all will go well—for his physician is already his friend, to whose skilful ministrations he can look with confiding hopefulness.

Another attribute that should belong to the medical practitioner is love of truth, associated with a deep distrust of personal infallibility. With most intense ardor should the mind thirst after truth in medicine. Theoretic and practical, general and particular, truth should ever bear the brightest hues of loveliness to our eyes. Truth, the fairest daughter of the skies, bears in her right hand the riches of both worlds, and in her left she presents an exhaustless cup filled with draughts of immortal joy: on her head there glitters a crown of triumph, won from error's hateful reign, and in her onward march of victory, the arts and sciences, obedient follow. Heaven stoops down to encourage and reward her;—angels wait on her footsteps, and the sterile wilderness bursts forth in efflorescence and fertility beneath her feet.

Animated by a love for truth—and ever guarded against the encroachments of illusion, the physician anxiously wishes day by day, to increase his fund of knowledge. To rectify misconceptions, to familiarize his thoughts with scientific inquiries; to gather up, hourly, new facts in medicine; and to improve on old modes of practice, are objects most earnestly wished for, most industriously sought after.

Avoiding all ostentatious displays, all *ad captandum* modes of awakening the admiration of the public, and with no bold assumptions of superiority over his professional brethren, the honorable physician, seeks that reputation which follows worthy acts, not that which is manufactured for sinister ends, and is suited to mislead the simple and unsuspecting.

Keenly alive to improvement, the aspiring and conscientious and intelligent physician floats not down the current of his fate a mere inert torpid thing, destined soon to sink into nihility. But with elastic and buoyant mind he goes on in the path of knowledge ; making each day as it passes tributary to his accessions of thought. As years revolve he is more and more enamoured of truth :—as new trials environ his way with augmented partiality does he cling to his profession. No sickly delicacy of sentiment or selfish wish to escape from the duties of social life, or arrogant pretensions of desert, alienate his regards from this professional obligations. To his attracted gaze there dwells a grandeur, a nobleness, a beauty in the science of medicine which cannot be dimmed or eclipsed by the glory of all other branches of knowledge. Having chosen the profession of medicine as the fitting object on which his intellectual, moral, and bodily labors are to be expended, so as to make it the business of life, why should he now shrink from the duties which the pursuit involves, or utter his weak lamentations because he is to show himself a man.

Poor, desponding, unmanly is the spirit of that physician who is forever discharging his splenetic thoughts, or venting his silly tirades against the profession. Whence all this discontent ; why utter thy maledictions against the noble calling thou art pursuing ? Is thy overweening self-estimation touched by neglect ; or has thy ignorance revealed its revolting aspect to even thy own eye ; or are you too supine and indolent to arouse all thy energies to prosecute with manly vigor the race before you ? Are not the difficulties met with, in the profession of medicine, inseparable from all the active employments of life ? Do rivals envy and misrepresent you ? Do those on whom you have with the utmost prodigality bestowed your kindest professional labors detract from the value of your services ? Are you allowed to sit solitary and almost friendless in your office waiting for professional calls, whilst the vilest charlatan is patronized by an undiscerning public ? All these grievances may attach to the young physician's situation, and yet they do not warrant him in the entertainment, much less the utterance, of embittered reflections against the profession. No man can excel in that avocation which he despises. His faculties will not go forth on a career of discovery in that direction from which he averts his contemplations. If darkness, unilluminated by hope, covers the field occupied by him, he will forever grope amidst the petty annoyances which vex his path, without any bold attempt to push forward till a brighter, clearer way is won. Let but the

rays of hope chase away the shadows which hover over the territory he is determined to tread; let but a heroic will actuate his efforts, and a lofty aspiration fire his soul after excellence, then will these disturbing and irritating causes, which now so mar his peace and impede his progress, be thrust aside or trampled upon as too trivial to interrupt his ascending course. And no longer content to imitate those

"Who disquiet always what is well,  
And in complaints unceasing do excel;"

The determined spirit rises superior to the hindrances which beset his path, and ere many days is seen occupying a commanding position in his profession, despite of fortune's frown, and despite of those obstacles which have crushed the feeble vitality of others, or exorcised their effeminate souls of all pride of professional character.

There are certain habits pertaining to the character of the exemplary physician deserving our special notice. These are a habit of industry—the habit of patience—and that of economy of time.

Industry is the primal fountain of all prosperity. The savage is indolent, and he is poor. Civilized man owes his comforts, and luxuries;—his might and glory, to the ceaseless toil of his intellect and hands. Educing from the hidden resources of nature vast elements of power, the genius of man triumphs over the wants and weakness of his condition and renders the very powers which threatened his existence contributory to his well-being.

In no department of human industry has art displayed a more elaborate array of the means of defence against evil, and of fertile expedients for the accomplishment of good, than in the complex plan of preventing, alleviating, and removing disease.

Destitute of industry—of a well-sustained, systematic exertion of our mental powers, nothing permanently useful can be attained in our profession. Accident, or rash experiment, may hit on some valuable discovery but of what avail is such a disclosure on the part of nature, if the patient labor of man does not make those applications of the discovery which render it available? The truth or fact discovered by accident or rash experiment, must be lifted up out of the isolation in which it stands and be made to blend with other truths or facts, and thus become instinct of new related tendencies. Patient toil of mind alone can discern these tendencies, and by giving a wider range of direction to the original discovery indefinitely expand the sphere of its agency.

From the hour when the student takes a medical work in hand, through all the stages of his professional studies and researches, up to his brightest achievements of remedial skill, and along the whole progress of his career, an unremitting irrepres-sible exertion of his powers is required.

Patience, as an habitual state of mind, must, with presiding authority, ever accompany the physician. When a student, there is a constant need of patience;—when young, in the active duties of the profession, patience is required—and in the busy employments of a large practice, patience must be exercised. Patience of preparation, the student should possess; patience of probation the young physician must have; and patience of temper, amidst the privations of repose and social enjoyments, and in the exhaustion of his mental and bodily strength must be the ever-present support of the older practitioner.

Economy of time is another habit of great significancy. Time with noiseless step treads on, and we are borne forward by his resistless march. Life is a state of constant expenditure, and unless vigilant and prompt to seize the moments as they pass, ere long nothing will remain but the painful recollection of wasted days, hopes frustrated, and prospects of usefulness blasted. The regulated distribution of the hours of the day to specific duties has been the foundation of many an eminent man's success. And the annals of medicine do not contain the history of a single individual who has risen to distinction in our profession, who had not dedicated his utmost efforts, and economized his every hour to the high ends of his professional life.

The aims which should urge on the physician to this incessant labor are, a determination to stand fair in his profession; a desire to become eminent; an urgent wish to advance the science of medicine; and a lively hope of seeing the profession advance in respectability and usefulness.

The young man who commences the study of medicine without a fixed resolute purpose, by diligent study, to become a respectable practitioner is not worthy of the name of a patriot, christian, or philanthropist. What, to push with intruding haste into the solemn responsible office of acting as guardian of the health of the community, and know nothing of the science of life or of the best means of rectifying its disordered condition. To rush in where an angel might fear to tread, and with blind presumptuous eagerness lay hold on the dearest interests of man. Like Uzzah, with audacious irreverence, place an unhallowed hand upon the ark of God, but unlike



Uzzah escape the vengeance of heaven ! On this point we must speak out. Duty urges ;—the state of the profession calls for it ;—the abounding quackery of the land demands it at our hands. How can a man assume to himself the name of a lover of his country when through a degraded selfishness he seeks to advance his private interests at the expense of the health and lives of his countrymen ? How can he who commences the practice of medicine without proper qualifications, ever appropriate to himself the name of Him “who went about doing good,” when the ignorant pretender in physic spends his days in going about doing evil ? And, in the name of Infinite Rectitude, how can that man be entitled to the name of philanthropist, who plies the dangerous instruments of life and death in the dark, and promiscuously deals destruction on every side ?

But not merely to prepare himself that he may become a safe and respectable practitioner should be the student’s aim, but his earnest breathings of soul should incite his unremitted endeavor toward the mark of a higher excellence. And what hinders any from pursuing this nobler path ! Does any mysterious interdict of the skies frown upon you ? Has there any irresistible decree gone forth against you from the august throne of the Deity ? Or are you a marked child of a cruel destiny, upon whose nature is stamped the seal of an incurable imbecility ? No ! neither does there frown upon you the interdict of heaven, nor lies there any dark decree on your path, nor are you so steeped in mental imbecility as to be incapable of an elevated rank in the profession. But the alternative of victory or defeat, of success or discomfiture, hangs suspended on this sole condition—PATIENT TOIL. This is the alone exclusive price of the rich guerdon which awaits each one who fairly and punctually pays it down.

“Fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise

To scorn delight and live laborious days.”

We want in our profession more of this aim after honorable distinction. We want a pervading, awakening emulation in our ranks that will lift us up from the low level of mere pecuniary advantages and confer on us loftier views of the dignity of the profession, and a more expanded conception of its great capabilities of usefulness. Let us ever strive, though a difficult task we feel assured it is, to escape from the narrow beaten, dusty road of its drudgeries and gains, into a more spacious field and to a more elevated ground of contemplation, whence the eye may sweep a far circling horizon and the mind be regaled with the goodly prospect so profusely spread around.

In the formation of an estimable professional character there is another attribute that must coöperate. A vivid hope should ever enliven the mind that the profession of medicine will not retrograde in scientific research, in practical skill, or in any of the essential elements, qualities, or adjuncts, which go to constitute it an avocation which a refined and cultivated mind will never be ashamed to pursue. There are four ways in which this hope may receive its fruition. First, in the advancement of medicine in scientific research; second, in the onward progress of medicine in the road of a beneficent application of its scientific truths to the cause of humanity; third, in the augmented kindness and friendly intercourse which unites its members; and fourth, in that discouragement given every sort of empirical imposture, which the diffusion of light in the community shall secure.

It is a matter of warm congratulation to every cultivated member of our profession that at no former period in the history of medicine have the boundaries of its scientific truths been more conspicuously enlarged than in our day. The electric fluid is not more active and ceaseless in its invisible motion around the globe, penetrating all bodies and ever impressing changes wherever it touches, than is the spirit of research in the wide-spread body of the medical profession. In Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and in the islands of the sea, every where and in all places, wherever the torch of education has kindled up the lights of philosophical inquiry, the glow and animation of medical improvement are working out indestructible results, and building up with imperishable materials, the temple of science.

Coincident in activity of operation is the beneficent power ever shown by our profession, of mitigating the pains and of preventing and curing the diseases of mankind. New remedies are daily discovered and a more discriminative employment of well established means of cure constantly made. The fiery outbreaks of invective, and envenomed denunciations made by medical men against each other are afflicting in the extreme to every one who desires to see the profession rise in respectability. The opprobrious and disparaging language, circulated at times in our public prints, by a physician against an offending brother reminds us of the practice of certain eastern despots, who never consider their throne secure till they have extirpated all the other member of the family. It is time for medical men to cease from this strife of passion so disreputable to the parties concerned, and in reciprocated acts of friendly inter-



course, and in harmony of feeling, coöperate in accelerating the march of medical science, and in advancing our profession in utility, in honorable repute, and to a more exalted position in society. May the language of each honorable physician be:—

—————“Let us no more contend, nor blame  
Each other, blamed enough elsewhere; but strive  
In friendly offices, how we may lighten  
Each other's burden, in our share of toil.”

Time admonishes us to close this address, but before we do so permit us to quote the language of several men of immortal renown in the profession, as demonstrating the aims by which they were inspired in consecrating their lives to the practice of medicine.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine, speaking of the characteristics of a good physician, says, “does he suffer with the sufferings of others? does he naturally feel the tenderest commiseration for the woes incident to his fellow mortals? You may reasonably infer that he will be passionately devoted to an art, that will instruct him in what manner to afford them relief.”

And Galen remarking on the history of Hippocrates, says that “there was but one sentiment in his soul and that was the *love of doing good*: and in the course of his long life but a single act, and that was the *relieving the sick*.”

Sydenham, justly designated the English Hippocrates, utters these noble declarations—which the whole authentic history of his life proved to be sincere,—that “he had rather discover a certain method of curing the slightest disease, than to accumulate the largest fortune. Upon deliberate and equitable reflection I find it better to assist mankind than to be commended by them and highly conducive to tranquility of mind; popular applause being lighter than a feather or a bubble, and less substantial than a dream.”

Take one more bright example. At the dark and disastrous period of the yellow fever in Philadelphia, in 1793, when a funeral pall covered its streets, and each house was filled with sadness and bereavement, when death smote high and low, rich and poor, with relentless blows, and for a time mocked all the attempts of medical interposition to arrest his ravages—then did Rush, with persevering ardor seek out a new plan of cure. “Baffled, says he, in every attempt to stop the ravages of this fever, I anticipated all the numerous and complicated distresses in our city, which pestilential diseases have so often produced in other countries. Heaven bore witness to the anguish of my soul in this awful situation. But I did not abandon a hope that the disease might yet be cured. I had long believed that good was commensurate with evil, and that

there does not exist a disease for which the goodness of Providence has not provided a remedy. Under the impression of this belief I applied myself with fresh ardor to the investigation of the disease before me." And heaven smiled upon his efforts, for by a new process of treatment the epidemic was rendered medicable. "Never," breaks forth in humble exultation, this benevolent physician, "never did I experience such sublime joy as I now felt in contemplating the success of my remedies. It repaid me for all the toils and studies of my life.

Gentlemen, with such luminous examples before us, should we not, with united action, strive to redeem our noble profession from the aspersions of vulgar prejudice and to scatter the clouds which obscure its brightness. Is the enterprise too hazardous for us to undertake? Do fears concerning the issue start up, and fill the souls with visionary terrors, which darken your contemplations and subdue and freeze your energies? If so, take to yourselves the following sketches, to rouse your admiration, and inspire your souls with a fresh resolution, to conquer difficulties, and to reap a harvest of glory amidst every discouragement. Cast your eyes on that awkward, ill educated, dull lad, as he emerges from his native hills in Scotland, and comes up to London to seek his fortune. He has no marks of genius about him—no auguries of future greatness cluster about his person—his manner and personal appearance are rude and repulsive. He arrives at his brother's house in London, and by him is scarcely considered worthy of being put to the study of medicine. But he enters the dissecting room—and now comes forth the hidden and wonderful genius of the man—he seizes the forceps and scalpel—revels in the luxuries of a new world opened to his inquisitive gaze, and with an industry and perseverance far surpassing all those around him, delves into the organization of man.

Not content with having mastered human anatomy, he passes on in a lofty range of inquiry, into the wide stretched regions of comparative anatomy—freely expatiates over the variegated field of animated nature—opens new regions of truth to his admiring contemporaries, and, with stately step passes on till the heights of renown are scaled, and with unanimous voice he is crowned by the medical profession as the greatest surgeon in ancient or modern times.—Such was John Hunter.

Look yonder in that ancient and opulent city;—who is it that claims and receives such deference and homage on all sides! It is the man who came to Paris as a poor rough blacksmith. Issuing from his native village in the province of Loire, on foot,

with his slender wardrobe in a bundle fastened to his back, his money gives out. He betakes himself to horse shoeing to refill his slender purse that he may get to the gay and wealthy capital of France. And anon he stands in its thronged streets, but not as an idler, but as an heroic man determined to win his way by honorable methods to fame and fortune. In Dubois he meets with a generous patron, capable of appreciating worth however obscured by indigence, or depressed by the frowns of a thoughtless world, and by him he is encouraged and aided in his course. With unsubdued tenacity he clings to his purpose;—works with indomitable patience, day and night, and ere long is advanced, amid the keen rivalry of the concourse, from one degree of distinction to another,—till from being the interne of a hospital he ascends the highest rank of professional dignity. And now the name of Valpeau is surrounded with as resplendent a halo of glory as that which encircles the exalted names of Louis and Andral, and the once humble artisan bears on his brow the highest honors of the profession, in a great and proud empire.

Gentlemen, catch inspiration from such noble specimens of professional excellence, and determine now to lay the solid foundation of your future eminence. It is with yourselves to decide of what complexion your professional lives shall be; for as you now sow will you reap hereafter. Ever remember that,

“ All should be prophets to themselves, foresee  
Their future lives, their future lives foretaste.”

